for cane development in mill areas for production of planting material, irrigation purposes, incentive to farmers for switching over to improved varieties, ratoon management, tissue culture laboratories etc. An amount of Rs. 2500 lakh has been kept in the budget estimate of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution for above purpose for the year 2006-07.

Fishery at Hirakund

†3664. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 140 species of fish have become extinct in the Hirakund dam during the last ten years;

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that Hirakund based Indian Fisheries Research Center, being run by the Central Government, has been closed down; and

(d) if so, whether any scheme has been formulated to rehabilitate 4000 families who are earning their livelihood with fisheries and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) As per the survey report of April 1992 of Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR), Barrackpore, a total of 86 fish species belonging to 20 families were recorded during early fifties. Of this, 24 species were of economical significance. The survey in 1992 identified 40 fish species comprising the commercial fishery in Hirakund reservoir, which included carps (9 Nos.), catfishes (12 Nos.), featherbacks (2 Nos.), live-fishes (5 Nos.), prawns (1 No.) and miscellaneous species (11 Nos.). Thus, it seems unlikely that 140 species of fish have become extinct in Hirakund dam during the past 10 years.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is a proposal to close down the Research Centre of Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (ICAR) located at Burla (Orissa) subject to the verdict of the Hon'ble High Court of Orissa.

(d) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.